

KARACHI

Sunset **05:44pm**
Sunrise (Tomorrow) **06:51am**

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum **16°C**
Maximum **30°C**
Humidity **52%**
Outlook **Sunny**

METRO

South



Santner fireworks give NZ ODI series win over West Indies

Pg.18 SPORT

Karachi to become 5th largest city in world by 2050: UN

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The city of Karachi is expected to become one of the 10 largest cities in the world between 2025 and 2030 with a rapid population growth, which is expected to continue through mid-century.

According to the summary results of the 'World Urbanisation Prospects 2025', released by the United Nations, Karachi could rise to fifth place with a projected population of almost 33 million in 2050, overtaking Cairo (32 million), Tokyo (31 million), Guangzhou, China (29 million), Manila, Philippines (27 million), and Kolkata, India (24 million).

The report says the number of megacities quadrupled from eight in 1975 to 33 in 2025 — over half in Asia with 19 megacities, and projections indicate that there will be 37 megacities globally by 2050.

Fast-growing Dhaka is expected to become the world's largest city by mid-century.

Meanwhile, Tokyo is projected to fall in rank from third in 2025 to seventh in 2050, as its population shrinks to around 31 million.

In 2025, the world's most densely populated cities have more than 20,000 inhabitants per square kilometre. Many of these densely populated cities are also among the world's most populous, including Karachi

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AN excavator demolishes encroachments built by shopkeepers on a footpath in the North Nazimabad area.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Mayor announces Rs9.5bn plan to make inroads into rival TMCs

Rehabilitation and repair of 26 major arteries in towns mostly controlled by Jamaat to be undertaken through special funds provided by Sindh govt

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Amid growing complaints from residents about deteriorating infrastructure, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has announced a Rs9.5 billion initiative aimed at making inroads in areas currently run by rival Jamaat-i-Islami town chairmen.

According to the initiative, more than 26 major streets under the Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs) will be rehabilitated by the Pakistan Peoples Party-led Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), apparently seeking political mileage.

The Sindh government is providing funds to the KMC under its Special Karachi Development Grant (SKDG) so that the civic

body executive development works in areas mostly run by the opposition JI.

Mayor Wahab chaired a meeting on Wednesday, which was attended by Local Government (LG) Secretary Waseem Shamshad, Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi, Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi and other senior officials.

The mayor was briefed about the "extensive plan" to rehabilitate, rebuild and repair more than 26 major streets falling under the jurisdiction of the TMCs, said a statement.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of various development schemes and urban improvement programmes was also conducted.

"It was decided that all shortlisted schemes would be finalised and forwarded for approval under the Special Karachi Development Grant, ensuring swift initiation of work across the city," it said.

The meeting was informed that the rehabilitation plan focuses on the most burdened and frequently used arteries across different districts and on roads that are central to daily commuter movement but have long suffered from wear, congestion and inadequate main-

tenance.

"These initiatives are part of KMC's broader vision to modernise Karachi's infrastructure and address chronic urban challenges through sustainable and long-term planning," the statement added, noting that the development package will significantly ease travel for "millions" of residents, reduce congestion, and enhance safety and accessibility across all towns of the city.

The statement also named the key roads which have been identified for rehabilitation, including Hashim Raza Road, Al-Amna Avenue, Shahrah-i-Usman to Shahrah-i-Noor Jahan, among others, in the Central district, while in the West district, Orangi Link Road, Gulshan-i-Ghazi, 19-D Road, Faqir Colony roads, and additional internal connectors have been marked for the upcoming project.

In the East district, Sehba Akhtar Road, Sardar Usman Ali Sabri Road, Nash Kazmi Road and other key routes connecting residential and commercial neighbourhoods would be rehabilitated under the KMC initiative, and in the South district, Garden Road,

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PA speaker, chief secy issued notices on pleas challenging constitutional benches ordinance

SHC removes office objections; rules petitions filed in public interest to question vires of ordinance promulgated by acting governor

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the speaker of the provincial assembly, who is currently acting governor of the province, the chief secretary and law secretary on two identical petitions impugning a recently promulgated ordinance empowering the constitutional benches (CBs) of the high court with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional matters under Article 199.

A two-judge CB comprising Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry and Justice Muhammad Jaffer Raza also put the

advocate general on notice for Nov 27.

The bench took up both the petitions for hearing after overruling various objections raised by the office of the SHC registrar.

Two practicing lawyers — Barrister Ali Tahir and Advocate Mohammad Arshad — have petitioned the SHC and asked it to strike down the Constitutional Benches of High Court of Sindh (Practice and Procedure) Ordinance on the grounds that it has transgressed constitutional limits, exceeded the legislative competence of the provincial assembly and violated the guarantees of judicial independence.

Barrister Tahir has made the province through the Sindh chief secretary and law secretary respondents while Advocate Arshad has cited law department, the Sindh governor and speaker of the provincial assembly as respondents.

Replying to one of the office objections to impugn the ordinance in constitutional jurisdiction, the petitioners argued that vires of an ordinance can be examined under Article 199 of the

Constitution. The bench accepted the replies and overruled the objection.

About another objection regarding making the governor a party despite his immunity given in Article 248 of the Constitution, the bench also overruled it. However, it did not issue a notice to the governor.

The bench in its order stated that the petitions were brought in the public interest by lawyers to question the vires of the ordinance recently promulgated by the acting governor.

The counsel for the petitioners submitted inter alia that Section 6 of the Ordinance which declares refusal by a judge to accept nomination to the constitutional bench will "prima facie amount to misconduct" was beyond the legislative competence of the provincial assembly and consequently the governor, so also ultra vires Articles 202-A and 209 of the Constitution of Pakistan, it added.

The bench stated that the lawyers pointed out that Article 128 of the Constitution envisaged that the power of the governor to promulgate an ordinance

was not a substitute for an act of the provincial assembly and was to be exercised in matters involving urgency.

Noting that the points raised required consideration, the bench issued notices to the respondents, except the governor, for Nov 27.

The petitioners submitted that the promulgation of the impugned ordinance had caused a significant intervention in administration and adjudication of constitutional matters within the SHC by the executive.

They contended that the acting governor had promulgated the impugned ordinance independently without the advice of the chief minister and his cabinet rendering the promulgation a grave violation of Article 105 of the Constitution.

They argued that the impugned ordinance had effectively ousted the jurisdiction of other benches (regular benches) of the SHC and it was not a matter of procedure but of substantive judicial power which was only the prerogative of Constitution and not of subordinate legislation.

Young man shot dead in Lyari

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A young man was shot dead in the Lyari area on Wednesday morning, police said.

Kalakot SHO Agha Mashooq said that Subhan Sharif, 30, was shot and killed by unidentified assailants at Afshani Gali No 13.

He said the deceased had a suspicious past and it appeared that he was killed by his accomplices over some personal grudge.

The body was shifted to the Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities.

Stabbed to death

A teenage boy was stabbed to death in Clifton, police said on Wednesday.

They said that Hammadullah, 19, was killed during a clash at a shop in Block-1. He was taken to a nearby private hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

The Boat Basin police registered a case and said that the murder was motivated by some personal dispute.

Women-only Pink Bus Service expanded to Green Line corridor

Sharjeel urges PM to fulfil his promise of providing buses to Karachi; says double-decker buses to be plied on Sharea Faisal in first phase

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Wednesday launched the women-only Pink Bus Service on the dedicated corridor of the Green Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system from Numaish to Surjani Town to provide connectivity to women on Green Line bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with senior officials of the transport department and Sindh Mass Transit Authority, inaugurated the new service aimed at providing better travel facilities to women.

Talking to the media, Mr Memon said the transport department was consistently work-

ing to improve travel facilities across the province and that citizens will hear more good news soon.

He said that the Sindh government had expanded the Pink Bus service to support women. "Pink buses have begun operating from Numaish to Surjani, and soon pink buses will also run on the Edhi Orange Line BRT and Green Line."

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had promised to provide buses for Karachi and he should now fulfil that commitment.

Mr Memon, who holds the portfolio of transport, mass transit and information departments, added that the prime minister and the chief ministers of Punjab have also been asked to introduce similar services for women in their provinces.

He said special bikes are being prepared for children with disabilities and will be provided free of cost.

He said double-decker buses will arrive in the province next week. He said that the buses will first operate on Sharea Faisal and routes may be expanded if needed.

The minister said that new buses are being introduced as pilot projects on the corridor of BRTs.

He said outstanding issues have been settled with the Asian Development Bank and a briefing on transport projects will be held in Karachi with all political parties and stakeholders present.

Mr Memon added that the Sindh government is providing free fertilizer to farmers and that wheat cultivation will increase through subsidies.

He said that under the vision of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, ownership rights of houses for flood-affected people have been granted to women.

The Benazir Income Support Program was also initiated by President Asif Zardari to support women's economic independence, he added.

Commenting on the recent amendments to the Constitution, he claimed equality and uniformity had been strengthened through the tweaks and "criticism of these amendments is unwarranted".



SINDH Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon is briefed on the operations of Pink Bus Service on the Green Line corridor.—Dawn